

LB984

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cash reserves which were probably used up last year in order to implement the limit. But there are a number of serious problems that occurred over the limit last year and strangely enough, the problems occurred mostly in smaller schools. Opening up a new school, the necessity of putting on an additional janitor. At one particular school district, I recall, had a boiler that exploded and a replacement was necessary there. So I think that if we're serious and I don't know if we are or not about passing the state aid bill, if we're serious about doing it and the limit is going to be something that's going to clutter it up because it's absolutely without meaning, and simply to say that we have a limit is not going to serve any good and worthwhile purpose. And certainly I think in my district that the Board of Education elected by the people of my district duly elected can handle the problem, can decide where we need expenditures and where we don't need expenditures, can decide what programs they want and what programs they do not want. I think historically almost every state that's gone to a limit has ended up with some very serious crisis for them in education. And for those who talk in terms of quality education, I've heard it on the floor many times, I'd say to you there's a direct relationship between programs and money just as there is at the University or in agricultural research or Vets Science buildings, the whole bit. So I think that we need to allow local elected school boards determine their destiny, determine what they need in terms of education in that particular district. And once we place a limit on, it does about a half dozen things and they're all bad. It's absolutely unnecessary, there's no call for it and I would move the adoption of my amendment.

PRESIDENT: Now, Speaker Proud.

SENATOR PROUD: Well, I have a question for Senator Lewis. I was amazed, Senator, at your statement that we apparently don't trust the school boards and that on the contrary, you apparently put your faith in the school boards. My question is, do you put your faith in school boards on negotiating school salaries and on tenure and all those other things or do you think the state ought to step in and run it?

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: I think that's a very interesting question, Senator Proud. I think you'd do it by legal, judicial recourses available to everyone. If some student in the school system is not getting what he considers fair treatment or some parent, some teacher, some anybody, we have a recourse to courts which, by the way, provides the necessity in all things for the attorneys. The recourse from a local board of education decision to the Court of Industrial Relations or through negotiations, certainly that's not a limiting factor. I think it's an organized effective way to handle those. I might point out in my own particular school district, we've never gone to court. We've never been to court and we were negotiating long before LB485 was ever passed. Went to impasse once and that was very quick. Reaps the solution. And the court really has not but that's the last recourse and I see no correlation to that.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: I have several questions I'd like to ask Senator Frank Lewis.

PRESIDENT: Does Senator Lewis yield?